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I am not quite sure where people get the time to live the Web 2.0 lifestyle. Between reading, replying and updating Facebook, peeping at SA's microblogging platform Gatorpeeps (see our interview on p26), tweeting at Twitter, uploading pictures on Flickr, posting to Tumblr, checking magazines on Scribd or Issuu, and keeping a blog

updated, where does one find time to actually do some work? Work, and a lot of it, has certainly gone into the new www.techsmart.co.za. Go to p27 to read all about the new site, better yet browse over today, register as a member and leave us a comment.

Highlights of this issue include some excellent power tools, the Android smartphone face-off, our interview with Justin Hartman of Afrigator and some interesting facts concerning peer-to-peer networking.

Enjoy this month's Home Living Issue, preferably somewhere warm. PS: for the latest tech happenings follow us on Twitter @TechSmartMag.

Mike Joubert <michael@techsmart.co.za>

I'm holding the HTC Magic and Dream. Read about them on p20.

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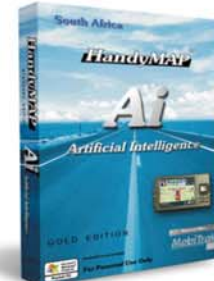
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Last month we asked you: Tell us which technology in your home you can't live without and why... Here were your answers.

Letter of the Month

Hi Ed,

The simplest and rather antiquated piece of technology I'm unable to function without is my trusty remote. It may not be able to connect to the Internet at lightning speed, or at all for that matter. I can't chat to friends with it, no LCD screen anywhere to be found on this device... Heck, it can't even make a cup of coffee. It can, however, with the flick of my wrist and the push of a single button, save me the effort of moving from my incredibly comfortable couch. Wonderful. Wouldn't you agree?

David Baker

As long as I am in charge of the remote I agree. Enjoy your Lexmark printer. -ED



Hi David. Thanks for the great letter. You are the lucky winner of a Lexmark X6675 wireless 4-in-1 with a 5-year guarantee sponsored by Lexmark.

Hi TechSmart,

As I type this email to announce that I cannot live with out my hair straightener, I have had to change my mind and conclude that I can literally not survive without my keyboard. It not only allows me to do my job at the ISP where I work, but also allows me to keep in touch with my mates and entertain myself on a rainy day. It aids in me arranging my life online and keeps me up to date with your mag via your awesome new website!

Melissa Dessels

Hi TechSmart,

I cannot live without my LG HDD/DVD recorder, model number RH278, that has a 250GB hard disk. I saved all my collections of photos, music videos, MP3s, audios and movies on it, which means I will not lose their qualities because of scratches. It also has a USB port that I connect my USB flash drive to play MP3/WMA and JPEG files contained on it. I also connected my Amplifier (receiver), but I do not make the kind of noise that would irritate my neighbours. Sometimes I connect my DV digital camcorder and digitally transfer my DV tapes onto DVDs.

Simon Sikhosana

LEXMARK

Fast Fact

What is a printer's monthly duty cycle? The number of pages a printer is rated to print in a month.



Question:

Is P2P file-sharing right or wrong? (Read more on the subject on p24). Share your thoughts by emailing us on info@techsmart.co.za.

The Letter of the Month wins this incredible Lexmark X6675 wireless 4-in-1 with a 5-year guarantee. (Also available from IT retailers.)

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131 Terabytes. MTN's data carriage in April, up 31% from Dec 08 (MTN Press kit).

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June madness Notebook PC specials

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What is an HTPC:

A Home Theatre PC (HTPC) or media PC is a convergence device that combines the functions of a personal computer and a digital video recorder. It is connected to a television or a television-sized computer display and is often used as a digital photo, music, video player, receiver and digital video recorder.



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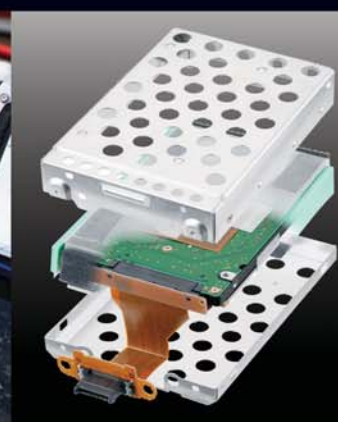
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The only reason we watched *Idols* was for Liezel van der Westhuizen. She tells us more about her involvement with the BlackBerry Urban Tours, her love of gaming and life after *Idols*.



Tell us about your involvement with BlackBerry Urban Tours.

I was the tour guide for the Jo'burg launch of the Urban Tours application for BlackBerry smartphones. So I basically lead the tour around Jozi.

Do you actually own a BlackBerry?

Yes, I have a BlackBerry Curve 8900 and it is life changing. I am now able to respond immediately to mails and work related issues. During *Idols* I would receive my script via email the evening before the show and lie in bed, learning the script from my BlackBerry. I love that it's small, compact and lightweight and fits into the back pocket of my jeans.

What's next now after *Idols*?

There are a lot of things on the table after *Idols*. I am currently busy writing a movie, and I am also a presenter on Jacaranda 94.2, so life has been very busy. I might even look at becoming a tour guide after my stint as the tour guide for the BlackBerry Urban Tours launch.

What do you like to do most when you're home alone?

I like to watch music DVDs on my home entertainment system. Currently I am watching *Jack Johnson and Friends: A weekend at the Greek*.

A good house must include ...

A microwave and a home entertainment system.

Tell us about your home entertainment set-up.

I have a Sony Bravia TV and Sony DCS-DDW7000H Home Theatre System. I am also a gaming fanatic, owning both an XBOX 360 and a pink Nintendo DS.

Do you own an iPod and what are you listening to?

Yes, currently I am listening to Ben Harper's *Live at the Apollo* album.

What would you call the most important gadget of all time?

A BLACKBERRY!! It has changed my life completely, I hardly ever use my laptop and it doesn't matter where in the world I am, I'm always accessible for work.

The BlackBerry Urban Tour Guide is available for free to all BlackBerry users. Go to www.urban-tours.com for more info.

60%. Amount of Twitter users that leave the service after one month. <http://tinyurl.com/technumber>

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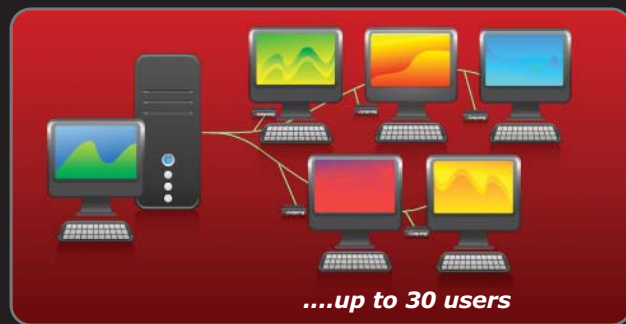
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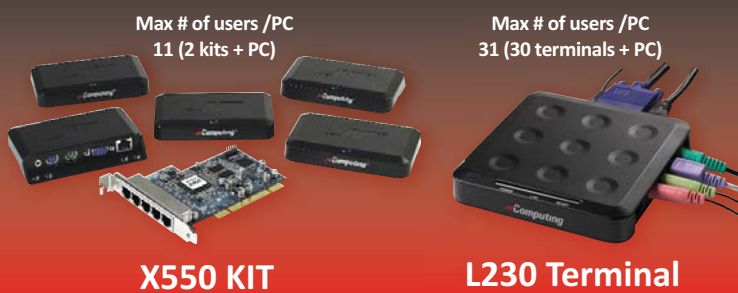
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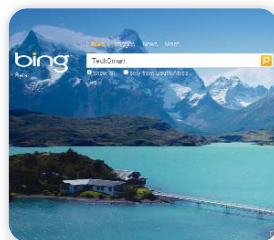
Seacom Cable arrived

After what seems like ages the Seacom undersea fibre optics cable finally arrived at Mtunzini close to Durban. The 1.28 Tbps 15,000 km cable promises to massively enlarge SA's broadband capabilities and in the long run make Internet access cheaper. It is expected to go live on 27 June.



Search Explodes

The past month has been a busy one for search engines. Wolfram|Alpha (www.wolfram-alpha.com), a new "computational knowledge engine" was launched and should provide scientists and students with a good place to start looking for info.



We don't think it will give Google a run for its money though, which is exactly what Bing (www.bing.com) wants to do. Bing is Microsoft's latest attempt to strangle a bit of the search market away from Google and to a lesser extent Yahoo. At this stage Bing doesn't offer much of a value add so we'll be sticking with Google for now.

News in Very Short

- An SA man is fired after referring to his boss's alleged bad habits on his Facebook status update. Lesson one: Don't add your boss as a friend.
- Grapevine Interactive takes the blame for the *Idols* voting debacle due to one of their pipelines not being able to handle the amount of votes. There is no truth in the rumour that the IEC will handle future voting.
- Over the course of 5 space walks the **Hubble Space Telescope** was serviced and repaired. With the astronauts back on earth there are no more live Twitter updates from space.
- Google SA has appointed a new country manager. Welcome Stephen Newton.



Hot New Products

- HTC release the first Android based cellphones in SA. Check out our comparison of the Dream and Magic on p20.
- Nokia launched the very impressive **E75** business phone. There is no touch-screen, opting instead for a slide-out QWERTY keyboard and a very impressive array of business features.
- Microsoft announced the Zune HD, a stunning media player that includes Wi-Fi and an Internet browser, support for HD radio and a gorgeous 3.3" touch-screen. Not destined for SA though.
- www.techsmart.co.za is re-launched, marking a turning point for the SA Internet. See p27 for more details.



techsmart.co.za | June 09

Get a Grip



The life of a honey bee is full of occupational hazards. Luckily Nature has developed a safety mechanism to protect its insect work force. According to a study recently published in the journal *Current Biology*, it's easier to get a grip on flowers with conical cells on their

petals than on those with smooth petals. Scientists attracted bees to artificial flowers, of which half had smooth petal surfaces, while the others had a rough finish. When placed horizontally, both petal types were equally attractive. But when the petals were presented at an angle, the bees clearly preferred the rough-surfaced flowers. Analysis of high-speed footage of the bees' landing showed that they scramble to get a grip on smooth petals, while on petals with conical cells they always managed to find a foothold. The conical cells thus create a kind of natural Velcro, providing a secure landing strip for safer nectar gathering. That's what we call traction control.

Girl Power



In the ongoing battle of the sexes it seems that no overall winner will ever emerge. But in the subdivision of immune response it seems women definitely have the upper hand. Scientists said in a May issue of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, that oestrogen

provides unexpected extra armour to the front line of females' immune systems. The group investigated the role of an

enzyme called Caspase-12, which usually suppresses inflammation. When mice lacking the Caspase-12 gene were implanted with a human form of the gene, only the male mice became prone to infections. Further investigation showed that oestrogen binds to a specific receptor on the Caspase-12 gene and so blocks its activity. Because the stranglehold of Caspase-12 is suppressed, females' immune system can go ahead to launch an efficient inflammatory attack on infection-causing pathogens. Sorry guys, you'll have to stick to eating oranges to ward off the sniffles this winter.



Mulberry Delight

Come spring time it's a familiar sight: children raiding the neighbourhood's mulberry trees for leaves to feed their shoe boxes full of silkworms. But what makes mulberry leaves so special? Their smell apparently, according to a recent report in the journal *Current Biology*. Scientists found that mulberry

leaves release minute amounts of a jasmine-scented chemical, called cis-jasmone. By studying silkworms' sense of smell at the molecular level they found 20 smell receptors that are active in the antennae of silkworm larvae. However, only one of those receptors is programmed to respond to cis-jasmone. When the specific receptor is stimulated, the worm moves towards the source of the smell.

The researchers think that the findings may lead to cis-jasmone becoming a useful supplement to domesticated silkworms' diet. Since the worms are important for the commercial production of silk, more efficient food intake may mean better yields. [LP]

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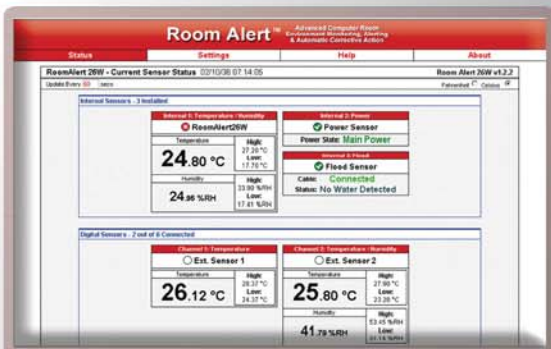
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LED:

The Light at the End of the Tunnel

In a recent report by McKinsey & Company, Light-Emitting Diode (LED) lighting was touted as the most cost effective way to reduce global warming. TechSmart investigates the uses of this energy efficient light solution.



LED Lighting Solutions

Inside the house LED technology isn't yet providing effective lighting solutions, mainly due to cost issues. In the US the C. Crane Company recently launched the GeoBulb LED light bulb. While a lot can be said about its power consumption – 7.5 watts for the same amount of light as a 60 watt incandescent, or its whopping 10 years lifetime, it comes with a hefty price tag of \$119. The energy efficiency and long life of LEDs do, however, make them excellent for external building lighting. A number of buildings have recently received external LED lighting makeovers to cut power usage, including Buckingham Palace and the Marriott Custom House Tower in Boston.



LED TV vs OLED TV

Samsung has recently released their stunning LED TV range in SA. The LED tag might be a bit confusing, since the display itself is still basically LCD, with the backlighting provided by LED instead of the regular Cold-Cathode Fluorescent Lamps. This makes the TV more compact and does a lot for the contrast ratio. The next step? Organic LED, or OLED. OLED displays do not require a backlight at all and are expected to trounce LCD display technology on just about every level – viewing angle, brightness, gamut, colour reproduction and contrast ratio. But it's not quite here yet. At this stage the organic material inside OLEDs tend to degrade the product faster than LCD and LEDs.

LED and the Mini Projector Boom

There have been some good developments in the projector field recently. Gone are the boring boardroom behemoths, making way for a new range of more compact and much smaller mini projectors. LED technology played an important part in the development of these little beauties. Thanks to their low power usage and almost non-existent heat output, designers did not have to struggle with a big power supply and powerful fans. Currently the available LED models can project in the 100–200 lumens range, which does not seem a lot against the 2000 lumens achieved by the older lamp technologies such as Xenon and UHP. But these lamps have a limited life span (about 1/10th of LED) and the price of replacing them was just ridiculous. The Acer K10 we review on p13 runs on LED technology.

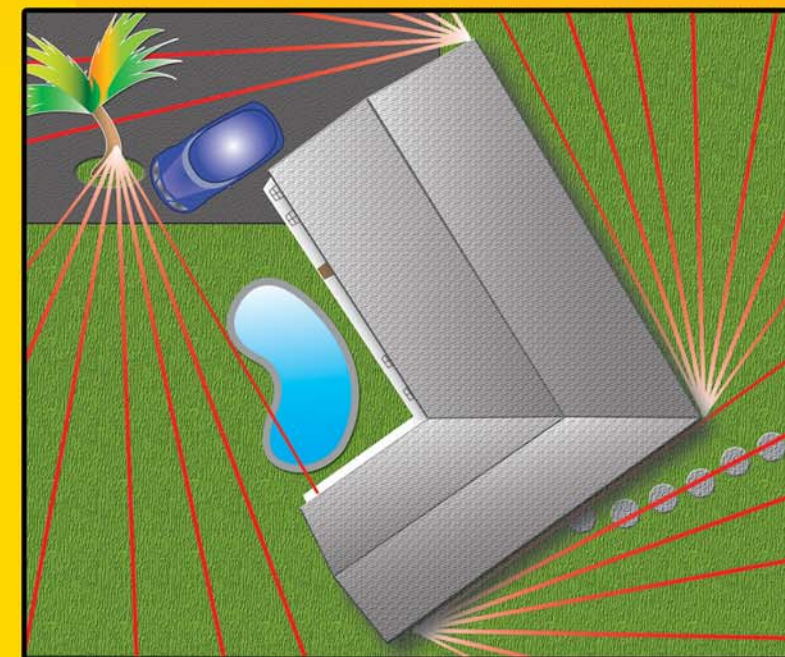


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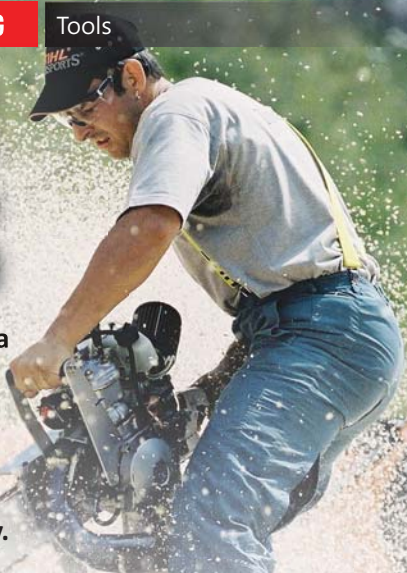
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Do It Yourself (DIY) might be a hobby for some, but for others it is serious business, requiring serious tools. Our DIY Dude put on his safety goggles and went to find the best DIY tools money can buy.



Dremel 300 Series

Dremel has been around for decades and have become *the* name in multi-tools. The 300 is the new series of the famous tool that allows you to fit hundreds of different bits to do a multitude of jobs, including: routing, sanding, carving, cutting, grinding and cleaning. This version has a variable speed setting from 10000 to 33000 RPM – quite a few times faster than any electric drill you've encountered. For more info visit www.dremeleurope.com



Power8Workshop

You've probably seen those 5-in-1 type tools advertised on many an infomercial, but beware; if the advertiser says: "Do you think this is too good to be true?", it is. But the Power8-Workshop is certainly not one of these. It is the world's first cordless bench top. This amazing tool comes in three configurations and includes a drill press, table light, scroll saw, table saw, jigsaw and circular saw. Check out the entire range at www.power8workshop.com



Dulux PaintPod

Painting your house can be quite a frustrating, if not an infuriating experience. Depending on the skill of the painter, you could end up with just drips to clean up or an entire can of paint on your newly fitted wooden floors. But with the PaintPod you just plug in the mains and it will deliver just the right amount of paint to the paint roller. The best part of the PaintPod is the fact that it's self-cleaning, as the system automatically cleans the roller sleeve and PaintPod unit. Locate a dealer near you at www.dulux.co.za/products/paintpod/index.jsp



Stihl Hotsaw

You can't actually buy one of these, but this must be the coolest power tool on the planet. In fact, we'd probably have to call it insane. These extremely powerful saws are used in the American Stihl Timbersports series. A "hotsaw" has to be able to cut through a 46cm diameter log within seconds. This means having a 62 horsepower petrol engine, fitted to a saw that weighs 27 kg and has a chain speed of 240 km/h. Take a look at some more timbersports at www.stihl.com

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487,000,000,000 gigabytes. The global volume of digital content.

AirLive POE-200CAM IP Camera

Keep an Eye Out



If you need to keep an eye on things, like your shop-front or warehouse or, well, any place that cameras need to see you, your staff or your stuff, then you'll need some proper surveillance equipment.

The AirLive POE-200CAM is a high performance IP camera designed for professional indoor surveillance and security applications. The main benefit of choosing an IP camera system, over the older television systems, is that you can view all images from cameras locally and over an intranet or the Internet.

This AirLive camera is equipped with a PoE port, which provides both power and allows network connectivity via a RJ45 network cable. The POE-200CAM is capable of simultaneous dual-streaming of MPEG-4 and Motion JPEG (MJPEG) to provide both high quality and bandwidth efficient compression, for viewing over IP.

The POE-200CAM also comes with some very useful software that allows you to set up to 16 cameras to create a fully integrated surveillance and alarm management solution.

It has an RRP of **R2487** (excl VAT). Call Nology for more info on 012-657-1317.

Acer K10 Projector

Not a Lightweight

If the Acer K10 projector were a boxer, it would be classed in the lightweight category, weighing in at just over half a kilo.

Acer bills the K10 as their first PICO projector, but we're not really sure. There are a number of smaller projectors out there so we would class it as a micro projector instead.

This micro projector produces about 100 ANSI lumens of brightness and gives you quite crisp images of up to 60" (diagonally). The K10 implements the much heralded DLP (Digital Light Processing) technology from Texas Instruments and uses LEDs instead of the older incandescent bulbs, meaning bulb replacement is almost unnecessary as LEDs will give you up to 20 000 hours of use.

We found the K10's automatic keystone correction to be both a blessing and a curse, as sometimes, just when you think you've got it nicely set up, it "corrects" the image over the edge of your projection screen or skews the image.

We like the compact size of this small projector, but we think it's just a bit pricey for what is quite a basic product, as projectors go. **R5399** (excl VAT) from Phase2 Direct on 011-444-5956.



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Advertorial Mini-Box Specialised IT store Small-form Factor PCs? No problem

From the hobbyist to the professional systems integrator, Mini-Box supplies specialised small-form factor computer systems, components and accessories that meet a variety of needs.

Storage is BIG business and Mini-Box pride themselves on the outstanding quality of the memory they distribute, and can supply any shape, size and quantity of USB, SD and/or CF storage you require.

Sacrifices in real size don't have to translate to sacrifices in performance, a fact which rings true of the Mini-Box concept. Mini-Box has recently been appointed the local distributor of the Mini-Box Slim2 – the smallest, most power-efficient Intel Atom PC to date.

Their range of products include Mini-, Pico- and



Nano-ITX Motherboards, a range of compact enclosures and petite, but effective power supplies. They also carry accessories aplenty, which should please the most ardent DIY system builder and electronics enthusiast.

Mini-box is accessible through a dedicated virtual portal at www.mini-box.co.za.

Divoom Comet-T1 5.1 Surround Speaker System

AGGRESSIVE! Sound



If you're an avid gamer, watcher of movies and TV series, or you just want to play music really, really loudly, but don't want to hand over all your money for an expensive speaker system, then consider the Comet-T1.

The Comet-T1 is a 5.1 surround speaker system; meaning you get 5 speakers and 1 bass speaker (sub woofer). We like the aggressive look of the Comet-T1 and the performance isn't bad either. The 6.5" active sub woofer has plenty of grunt and the four 2.25" full range

and 1.5" tweeter seem well balanced.

Divoom claim a frequency response of 20 Hz to 20 KHz, but there are very few professional monitor speakers out there that will be able to deliver 20 Hz, so it's unlikely that the Comet-T1 can match them.

What we will say, however, is that these speakers are a nice setup and the inclusion of a proper remote is a real bonus. And at **R699** they are a steal.

Available from Computer Corporation on 08616-08616

500: The number of times you can print on a new paper-like material by Toshiba.

1 in 3: The number of journalists worldwide arrested by governments who are bloggers.

Plustek SmartOffice PS281 Scanner Feed me, Seymour, Feed me!

A scanner is a scanner is a scanner. Well not quite. You'll soon realise that trying to scan a lot of documents with your plain old flatbed scanner is a bit like watching paint dry – painfully slow, boring, and extremely frustrating.

The Plustek SmartOffice PS281 is a sheetfed scanner that incorporates a 50 page automatic document feeder. Meaning that you're no longer stuck with page per page scanning. Instead the PS281 scans at about 20 pages per minute. It can also handle full colour documents, albeit at a slower speed, as well as documents from legal size down to business card size.

The PS281 has a decent amount of useful software bundled with, including *Abbyy FineReader Sprint Plus* to help with optical character recognition (OCR) and *DICapture* to help with document management.

Although the PS281 is not as fast as its older brother, the PS286 that we reviewed last month, it is still a very competent contender. Available from imageTEK on 011-608-1964 for **R2399** (incl VAT).



Brother MFC-240C Multifunction Center Printing Without Borders

The Brother MFC-240C is a multifunction that comes at a really great price. And you really do get a lot of value for what you pay for.

The MFC-240C is a 6-in-1 device that includes: a colour printer, flatbed colour copier, fax and PC fax, colour scanner and a number of media slots. As with all these types of devices you'll probably use the printing and scanning features the most, so it's these two features that are the deal maker or breaker, when it comes to the buying decision.

The MFC-240C has an inkjet based printer and will print up to 25 ppm black and white and 20 ppm in colour. These performance figures should be more than adequate for the average small business or home user. If you're inclined to print a lot of graphics then you'll like the fact that the MFC-240C also features borderless printing.

Scanning is great with the MFC-240C and it's unlikely that you will ever need to scan above its maximum scanning resolution of 600 x 2400 dpi. We also very much like the fact that the MFC-240C comes with all ink cartridges fully filled, not just quarter filled, like so many other new printers come with. Get it from Computer Corporation on 08616-08616 for **R1099** (incl VAT).



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We can tell you all about the CNPS9900 LED cooler's 100% copper heatsink with aerodynamically optimised "tunnel" design. Or its heatpipe design for cooling up to 6 heatpipes with the use of just 3. Or its ultra-thin 0.2 mm fins for minimised weight and significantly reduced airflow resistance. Then again we could just say that at this price it is one of the best CPU coolers available. **R1050** from PC Pro Shop on 012-348-4000.

CM Storm: Sniper PC Chassis A Chassis in the Crosshair

The CM Storm: Sniper gun metal black chassis may as well feature in the latest Tom Clancy novel. It looks seriously cool, and the designers actually took their inspiration from military weapons. Apart from the screw-less design you also have a control centre for tuning your lights and fans, while the StormGuard security feature prevents theft of your peripherals. **R1750** from PC Pro Shop on 012-348-4000.



XGR YP-27P Notebook Cooler Pads Is your Cool laptop just too Hot?

Just because you have a cool laptop doesn't mean it can't get hot. So if you are struggling with heat problems consider XGR's notebook cooler pad with its three 5V fans. This thing blows so cold that we actually had to stop using it after a while because the cold air emanating from the bottom was getting too much for our fragile wintery hands. The cooler pad is tilted so it helps with typing and it contains a blue LED light. This is great if you are going for that *Fast and Furious* laptop look, and is sure to get you noticed in the corporate environment. **R120** from Laptop City on 012-663-1155.



XGR Portable USB Kit All the USB stuff you need

XGR's portable USB kit is ideal to stick in your laptop bag. It contains just what you need in case of emergencies. This includes a mini mouse, 4 port mini hub, earphone and microphone, and cables for USB to USB, USB to mini-USB and RJ45 to RJ45. **R160** from Laptop City on 012-663-1155.



Apps downloaded from the iPhone App Store since it opened last year June. > 1 billion.

Casio EX-FH20 Camera Fastest Fingers First



On the surface the new Casio EX-FH20 compact camera looks and feels similar to an entry-level DSLR, but this bridge camera has an integrated 20x zoom lens that will give you the equivalent on a 35 mm film camera lens of 26 mm wide-angle to 520 mm telephoto.

The Casio has a 9 megapixel CMOS sensor. This might seem somewhat too small for those obsessed with megapixel count, but thanks to some clever sensor shift image stabilisation, which reduces image blur, you'll be more than happy with the resulting shots.



When shooting at full resolution there's nothing overly remarkable about the frame rate of 1.25 frames per second, but once you drop the resolution just a tad, you can shoot bursts of up to 40 frames per second. The same can be said of the video performance of the EX-FH20. You can capture full HD at 30 fps, or right up to 420 fps at 224 x 168.

If you're as keen about video as you are about taking some very good quality stills, this might just be the camera you're looking for. It comes at a pricey **R9999**.

Sony Handycam DCR-SX40E I'm Ready For My Closeup Now



Our first reaction upon opening the DCR-SX40E was one of sheer surprise at the size of this camera. It's really tiny. Would something so small be able to produce a big performance?

With 4GB of solid-state storage onboard you will be able to record about three hours of footage, with no tapes to change. If this is not enough, Sony has included a Memory Stick PRO Duo slot so you can expand storage.

The DCR-SX40E features the now ubiquitous Carl Zeiss Vario-Tessar lens, which is a far cry from the cheap lenses you'll find on a host of other entry-level cameras. There is also a 60x optical zoom, which allows you to get right in there for those emotional ultra close-ups.

Unfortunately the imaging sensor lets this standard definition camera down a bit. You might be a bit disappointed when viewing footage on an HDTV, as there are quite a few digital artifacts lurking on the screen. But if all you're recording is family and friends, you'll probably love this tiny camera. It has an RRP of **R3899**.



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HTC Dream vs HTC Magic

Battle of the ANDROIDS... FIGHT!!!

The Android mobile platform is finally here, making its appearance on two phones from HTC. The Dream and the Magic (known as the G1 and G2 respectively in the States) sure look smart, but how do they compare? TechSmart put them head to head to see how they match up.

Specs that are the same:

Display: 3.2-inch TFT-LCD flat touch-sensitive screen with 320x480 HVGA resolution
Network: HSDPA, Quad-band
Other: Wi-Fi, 3.2 megapixel colour camera with auto focus, Gmail, Google Maps, Google Talk, YouTube, Internet Browser
Final note: What bothered us the most was that South Africans can't download from Android Market. We feel seriously cheated.

← HTC Dream (G1)

Operator: MTN
Dimensions: (LxWxT) 117.7 mm x 55.7 mm x 17.1 mm
Weight: 158 grams
Memory: ROM: 256 MB, RAM: 192 MB
Keyboard: Slide-out QWERTY keyboard
Video formats: None
HTC Sync system: No
Microsoft Exchange Server synchronisation: No
Cost: MTN AnyTime 350 package for **R529** per month, which includes R350 worth of airtime and 100MB worth of data per month.

HTC Magic (G2) →

Operator: Vodacom
Dimensions: 113 x 55.6 x 13.7 mm
Weight: 116 grams
Memory: ROM: 512 MB, RAM: 288 MB
Keyboard: Touch Screen QWERTY
Video Formats: MP4, 3GP
HTC Sync system: Yes
Microsoft Exchange Server synchronisation: Yes
Cost: Vodacom Smart 120S package for **R450** per month which includes 120 minutes airtime and 250 MB worth of data per month. Or Smart 500S for **R925** per month which includes 500 minutes airtime and 250 MB of data.

Visit www.techsmart.co.za for comprehensive reviews of both phones.

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Serif Digital Scrapbook Artist Scrapbook on your Notebook

\$2,5 billion – that's what the scrapbook industry is worth in sales in the US. It was just a question of time then, before a very good software program appeared on the market to cater for the digital side of scrapbooking. Serif's *Digital Scrapbook Artist (DSA)* takes away the need to purchase all the different decorations. Instead it provides everything on your PC – templates, backgrounds, photo frames, embellishments, alphabets and materials and all the rest you need in your scrapbooking design.

Everything can be used by simply dragging and dropping it onto your picture.

DSA is dead easy to set-up and use, but comes with a physical user guide which takes you through the process just in case. We gave DSA to our designer, Brett, for a run through and his feedback was very positive. DSA's ease of use, and the amount of decoration available, and the fact that no design experience was actually necessary, were some of his stand out comments about the product.

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How to: Make a Rear-Projection Screen



If you're upgrading from an old tube-style TV to a flat screen, or if your current flat screen is just not big enough, why don't you consider a rear projection screen.

There are a number of advantages to having a rear projection system. Firstly, you can make it almost as big as you want it, without paying the exponential price increase that you would have to when buying an LCD screen. Secondly, as opposed to front projection, there are no issues of people or objects getting in the way of your projection. There is also the advantage of being able to upgrade just the projector and keeping your, already, very big screen.

This project will cost a bit more, in total, than the other projects I have taken on, but is so much cheaper than buying a new TV, assuming you already have a data projector. You also won't be able to buy the parts for this project at any hardware shop, as they are usually used in the signage industry, but they are easily available through Maizey Plastics – www.maizey.co.za.

What you need for a 50cm by 70cm screen (34"):

- A piece of clear acrylic sheet, like Plexiglas. I bought a piece about 50cm by 70cm (the aspect ratio of about 3:4)
- 3m length of 90mm aluminium lightbox profile
- 4 plastic corner sockets
- 1 sheet of A1 polyester drafting film, used for technical drawings (this you can get at most craft shops)

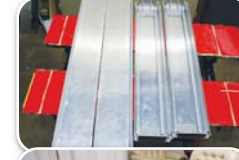
Construction of the screen is quite straightforward, but as the saying goes "measure twice, cut once". You'll need to carefully measure the length of each side of the screen and factor in the corners as they are curved inside, meaning that you need to cut each profile about 1cm longer than calculated.

The easiest way to cut the aluminium profiles is by using a hacksaw and mitre box, unless you have a very steady hand, which I have not. As I found out, with some rather depressing skew cuts.

Once everything is cut, you need to measure and cut the piece of drafting film to the right size. Polyester drafting film is much, much cheaper than professional rear-projection material making it the ideal material to use. It lets through just the right amount of light, while absorbing some, giving you an image of surprising quality, even in bright settings.

Now all you have to do is to put it all together. The corners make a very tight fit, so it's unnecessary to use glue or rivets. The drafting film should be on the inside of the screen and can be taped in place at the edges of the acrylic sheet.

Once it has been put together, you need to decide how to mount it. You also need to calculate how far away to have the data projector, this might be the only real downside to using a rear-projection system, but at the price, who cares, plus it's very impressive, especially if you make it much bigger than I did. [AG]



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P2P file-sharing

The BIG Issue

If you've ever used LimeWire or a BitTorrent site then you've engaged in file-sharing, and according to some you're liable for prosecution.

P2P file-sharing is about bypassing the middle-man. There is no need for a client-server – a single server dealing with all information requests – in P2P networking, as users operate on a distributed computing model. It's democracy at work, with all users created equal. While P2P file-sharing is not illegal, all too often users share protected material such as music, movies and books.

The law

P2P file-sharing has been a contentious legal issue as far back as A&M Records v. Napster in 1996 (US). The issue is currently generating high levels of public interest across the globe, the Pirate Bay – a BitTorrent tracking site – operators having recently been convicted of secondary copyright liability.

It is viewed by copyright holders as a threat to their rightful income, invariably causing them to file legal suits – in the US at least – against alleged violators, in the hope of curbing further violations.

Arousing still more interest is the upcoming US federal case, RIAA v. Joel Tenenbaum, an accused illegal file-sharer. His lawyer, Harvard professor Charles Nesson, is building a rather daring defence, claiming that P2P sharing is simply "fair use". While there have been no cases against illicit file-sharing in South Africa, we couldn't help but wonder if such a defence would hold up on this side of the planet.



Attorney Herman Blignaut, partner at intellectual property specialists Spoor & Fisher, points out that while there is a similar provision to "fair use" as exemption from copyright infringement in South Africa, that "the unauthorized reproduction of a song, computer program or film will not be covered by the defence of fair dealing even if it was copied for the sole purpose of research or private study or for the users' own personal private use". This is a result of the fact that, "[t]he [Copyright Act, No. 98 of 1978] only makes provision for certain specified works as subject-matter in which copyright can subsist with the exemption of "fair dealing" not even applying to all of these". So the answer is basically no, it wouldn't.

Playing catch up

What is apparent is the fact that the law has still to catch up with the times as it is ill-equipped to deal with P2P file-sharing – even if it is clear on the fact that it is illegal.

Tenebaum's case raises a number of issues: firstly P2P file-sharing is not generally done for profit. Furthermore, protected material is not actively distributed. Lastly it is not distributed from one person to another; it is distributed from one to many. With this in mind, why should the same heavy penalties as applied in more conventional infringements, apply in P2P cases?

This is a rather complex question that is best left for the courts to decide. What Blignaut does point out is that, "Peer-to-peer file sharing networks should generally be fairly resistant to legal attacks." He points out that it would "not make economic sense for a rights owner to prosecute copyright infringement proceedings against each and every person in a network of users that may have unlawfully copied digitally stored information whether it is in the form of a film, book, song etc."

Moving beyond the legal realm, file-sharing is also an ethical issue. So we put it to you; is P2P file-sharing right or wrong? Share your thoughts by emailing us on info@techsmart.co.za.

7 Million. The amount of people in the UK involved in illegal downloads.

PC Pro Shop Skype Classes

The hype about



Skype is the most widely used Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) service in the world. It has more than 43 million active users calling other Skype users every day for free. For many South Africans though, Skype is the easiest way to receive orders from friends and families living overseas, to send biltong urgently.

To use Skype you would need a) an Internet connection, b) Skype installed on your PC (available for free from www.skype.com), and c) some knowledge on how to use it. PC Pro Shop should be able to sort you out with b) and c). They offer a free Skype course at their Menlyn Retail Park branch on Tuesdays between 14h and 15h. Here you can learn how to install Skype, set up your username and password, learn what you need on the hardware side including cameras and microphones, how to find your friends and family, and general usage. Call PC Pro Shop to reserve your place on 012-348-4000.



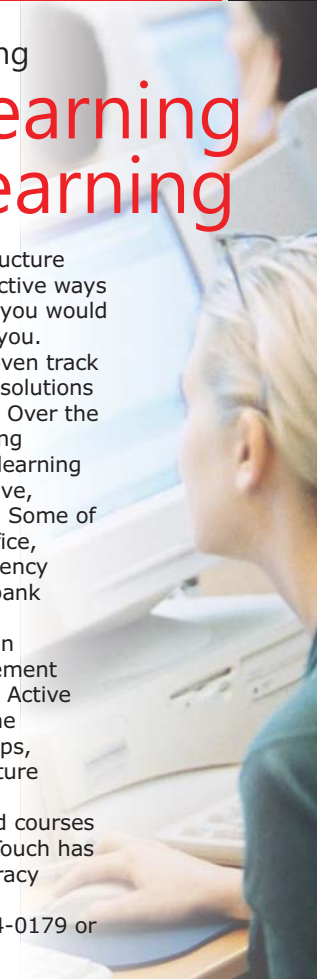
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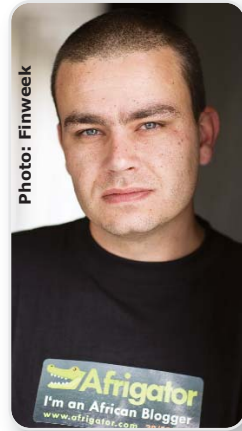
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Justin Hartman, MD Afrigator



Justin Hartman is one of Africa's Internet pioneers. As MD and co-founder of Afrigator – Africa's largest social media aggregator and blog directory, he is blazing a trail for the rest of us to follow. TechSmart caught up with him to discuss Gatorpeeps – their Twitter-like microblogging tool, the SA blogosphere and, uhm, Space Quest.

What are your thoughts on the current state of the African blogosphere?

The African blogosphere is booming, but luckily you don't have to take my word on it. For over two years now we've been tracking blogs from all over Africa and what we've noticed is that since October last year blog growth has been phenomenal.

This is not surprising either because for a long time Africa has been on the verge of mass penetration and while we're not there yet, we can clearly see a trend emerging with more and more Africans going online.

How long did it take you to launch Gatorpeeps?

At Afrigator we don't waste time and it took us ten working days from concept to product launch.

So how has the response been?

In South Africa the response has been mixed but generally positive while in the rest of Africa, in countries such as Nigeria, Tanzania, Kenya and Egypt, the response has been overwhelmingly amazing.

Why should I switch from Twitter to Gatorpeeps?

Well the short answer is that you shouldn't. Our strategy with Gatorpeeps is not to compete with Twitter at all. While it may look and function a lot like Twitter we're using Gatorpeeps to help connect our 14,000 users and allow them to engage with an audience that don't even have Twitter accounts.

How much time do you spend online each day?

Sadly I spend far too much time online. In fact, I'm always connected either via Internet or via my phone. On average though I spend around 14 hours a day online – it is my life and my business relies on me being active online.

Do you have a favourite SA Blogger?

Darren Gorton who runs the blog OutThink (outthink.co.za). Darren is an extremely smart guy who I respect a lot and he writes about business and technology issues that really make me think and evaluate my life on daily basis. Really a good read if you like to be challenged.

So what's your favourite game of all time?

When I was younger I spent a lot of time playing all the Space Quest games on an old XT computer. I have fond memories of Roger Wilco and those early days on a computer!

For Justin's full interview and his comments on the Gatorpeeps business model, the effects of the new Seacom Internet cable and Afrigator's plans for the future, join us online at www.techsmart.co.za.

The amount sales of the Three Wolf Moon T-shirt rose after sarcastic online reviews. 2,300%.

1 billion: The number of people on the Internet according to comScore http://tinyurl.com/technumber.

TechSmart.co.za goes L.A.R.G.E.

Live Accurate Reviews of Gadgets and Electronics



"Your website is a train smash," said a PR contact to me recently. With a bit of a grin at the hyperbole, I announced that we were just about to launch our new website. If a train smash was emblematic of the last site, then by comparison the new incarnation is a veritable bullet train.

New Look

They say, whoever they may be, that you should never judge a book (magazine?) by its cover. Something similar was never said of a website. In the digital age there are so many sites out there that it seems almost impossible to keep a user's attention unless you look good.

TechSmart.co.za has, consequently, been re-designed to be crisp, clean and user-friendly. Creating a visual impact that enhances a user's experience, it is most certainly online haute couture.

Importantly, all this beauty has done little in the way of slowing the site down. In fact the new site is far quicker than its predecessor. We have also kept the site 100% local. So no need to worry when you reach your cap, we're still accessible.

Daily updates

The tech industry never stands still, so how can we? With our daily news, you can now read about the most interesting happenings from the consumer electronics front. No boring business news or tedious updates on enterprise solutions; our news is all about the products and services that will actually shape your lifestyle.

We are obsessed with high technology of every kind; reviewing tech products is what we do. So you can expect unique, in-depth and daily content. With tech specs, summary reviews and full reviews you get the complete picture.

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Home desktop searching



Written by Lance Turner, a 12-year Internet industry veteran and Chief Executive of Branded Internet – listed as one of SA's Top 50 ICTe Companies 2005/6 + 2006/7.

Today a very big proportion of the information we deal with is computerised, with most of it sitting somewhere on your computer's hard drive. The very real problem is that it's becoming extremely difficult to keep track of the documents, files, pictures and music we have on our PCs.

Windows Explorer's built-in search tool can sometimes be a help, but it searches through your files and folders only, not your emails or address book, plus it is also pretty slow. So, what to do? How do you quickly find what you're looking for?

The answer is desktop search. Desktop search is the name for the group of applications which search the contents of your own computer, similar to how an online search engine will search the Internet. These applications are specifically designed to find information on your PC, and will cover almost all of your emails, text documents, spreadsheets, presentations, sound files, pictures and video, and even your web browser history. The biggest single advantage of a desktop search program is that you get your search results in only a few seconds.

These are some of the best I would recommend:

- **Google Desktop Search** – <http://desktop.google.com/> Google's Desktop Search (GDS) is slick, easy to use and fast at finding information on your hard drive. It displays

your search results in a similar way to Google's Internet search. A con to GDS is that it does not preview your files for you and you have to open the file to check.

- **Microsoft Windows Desktop Search** – <http://tinyurl.com/msdts> Windows Desktop Search 4 is the search application built into Windows. A plus for this application is you can specify exactly which folders you want to index, which means you can save space on your index file. It also does a great job of putting files into categories.
- **X1** – <http://pro.x1.com/> The best feature of X1 is that it is lightning fast. The interface is a bit busy because of the range of options that you have available to you, but if you spend lots of time searching for things, or give up because its too hard to find something, then X1 is the way to go. I use X1 on my PC.
- **Copernic** – <http://tinyurl.com/l8xzhc> What's great about Copernic is that it supports a wide range of file types. Also very nice is its easy to use, intuitive interface with an excellent file preview feature, which means you can literally see what the search has found.



If you have any questions or queries drop me a mail, lance@brandedinternet.co.za.

27: The number of PhDs produced in South Africa for every million people.

10+ trillion. Pieces of data that the new knowledge engine Wolfram|Alpha carries.

June Web Time Wasters

Frets on Fire

Frets on Fire is a game of musical skill and fast fingers. The aim of the game is to play guitar with your keyboard as accurately as possible. This game seems, at first to be a *Guitar Hero* clone, but there is a lot more to it than that. We really like this game as it presents a truly unique inverted keyboard gameplay style. There is also support for other guitar-type controllers and joysticks.

The game includes a song editor so you can make your own tunes and you can import *Guitar Hero I* and *Guitar Hero II* songs. Why don't you try your hand at playing online on the "World Charts"? <http://fretsonfire.sourceforge.net/>



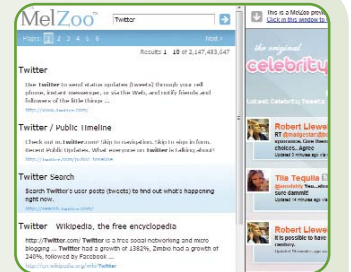
www.kidzui.com

There is great fear and paranoia out there about giving children access to the Internet. Not without good reason, since there are all sorts of nasties lurking out there. KidZui is a free Web browser, search engine and community for kids aged 3 to 12. Kids have the freedom to learn, search and explore over 2 million games, websites, videos and photos on their own. KidZui has the largest number of games, websites, videos and photos reviewed by parents and teachers anywhere online.



MelZoo.com

MelZoo is a search engine that offers "visual previews" of your search results. Most existing search engines don't offer this feature. The creators of MelZoo are confident that this time-saving and result-increasing feature will invite a lot of Internet surfers to switch from their traditional search engine (read Google) to MelZoo. The preview feature is supposed to improve the quality of traffic delivered to advertisers as the traditional search engines usually only offer text as a preview.



VirtualBox.com

VirtualBox is a great tool that lets you create a virtual PC, completely separate from your real one, right on your own hard drive. Not only is VirtualBox an extremely feature rich, high performance product for business customers, it is also the only professional solution that is freely available as Open Source Software under the terms of the GNU General Public License (GPL). VirtualBox is a community-development effort and the company Sun (producers of the Java Virtual Machine) ensures that VirtualBox meets quality criteria.



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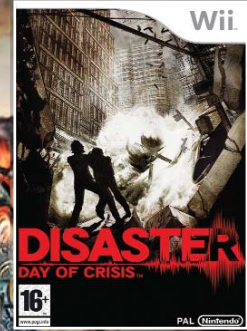
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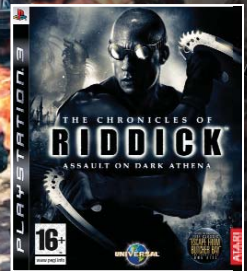
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Disaster Day of Crisis



The Chronicles of Riddick Assault on Dark Athena



Super Paper Mario Flipping excellent

I saw a preview for Super Paper Mario on YouTube about two years ago and I could not wait for the SA release. No-one could tell me exactly when it was coming, and I had all but given up hope until it unexpectedly landed in my lap.

When I got home and popped it in my alarmingly neglected Wii, it was just as good as I had hoped. The plot and storyline are quite complicated with kidnappings and forced marriages, sorcery, the Dark Prognosticus and the possible annihilation of the entire universe. Jeez, the pressure. Thankfully you are assigned a handy helper – a Pixl called Tippi, who you can ask questions about objects and items at any time.

The basic storyline has Mario collecting eight pure hearts, and in doing this needs to overcome those red plants that pop out of the pipes, Count Bleck's (the baddy) minions, and Goombas. Thankfully though, he can flip between the regular, old school 2D and the new and awesome 3D, to overcome seemingly uncrossable paths and inaccessible areas. Until you've tried it and flipped between dimensions, I don't think you can understand the awesomeness of being able to do so, even if it's only on limited HP. There are little things hidden behind stuff that you can't see in 2D, so every now and then you have to flip even if you don't need to.

I say, if you loved the original Mario brothers games, any of them, then you should really pick this one up for the Wii. Although I didn't do it, I imagine you can play through it in one or two days. Even if you haven't played Mario games before and begin with this one, it would be an awesome start. Play it! [ZK]



X-Men Origins: Wolverine Cigar Smoking Blade Cutter

I was genuinely and pleasantly surprised when I loaded XO: Wolverine for the first time. I was expecting the game to have taken the same PG-13 approach to Wolverine's blood soaked past as the movie, but boy – was I wrong.

After the first hour of playing not only did I have a new respect for the amount of damage that two indestructible claws attached to a cigar-smoking lunatic could dish out, but also the amount of blood they allowed to cover the screen of my 40" Bravia.

Yes, the game has far more gore than the movie, which in my opinion is spot on. The moves that Wolverine is capable of are also far more impressive than what his blockbuster stuntmen could pull off. Here you're able to send Logan into dizzying whirlwinds of carnage as he leaps football fields from enemy to enemy. You can also pull off one hit kills if you've got good timing and as you combo up the kills you'll gain experience which allows you to upgrade your character, making him even more powerful.

I felt really sorry for the first platoon of African soldiers that I slashed through on my way from checkpoint to checkpoint, because even if they managed to do some damage to my dual-clawed hero, his healing factor would kick in and have him good to

go in 10 seconds. The poor guys never stood a chance. But as I played through the game, more I saw that there were tons of different enemies to kill and I did so with extreme prejudice.

Also enjoyable was that while there is a lot of original voice acting and dialog, there are also snippets taken directly from the movie which give you a bit of *deja vu* and help to engross you in the story which fills some of the holes from the film.

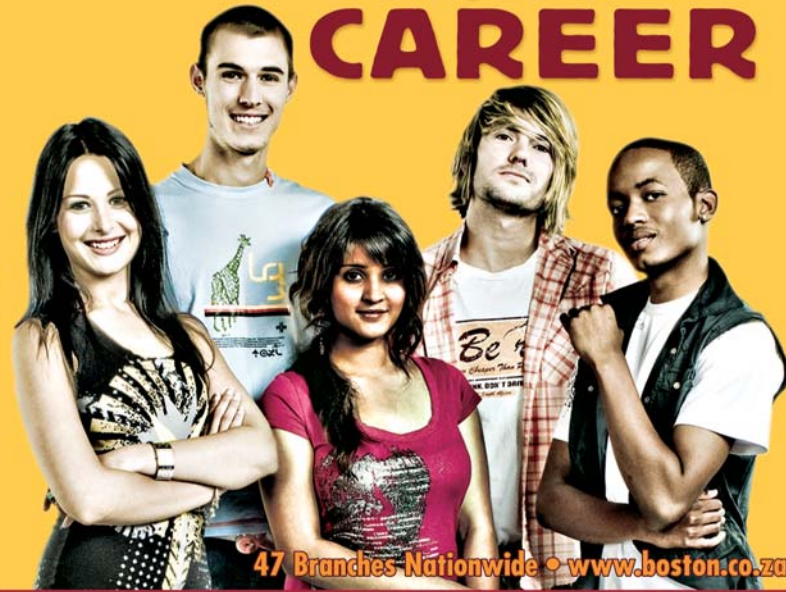
In long sittings the game can feel a little repetitive, but it's fantastic for those times when you've got an hour to kill and want something entertaining, fast paced and violent. I say it's a winner! [ZK]



1. Is the loneliest number that you'll ever do. 2. Can be as bad as 1.



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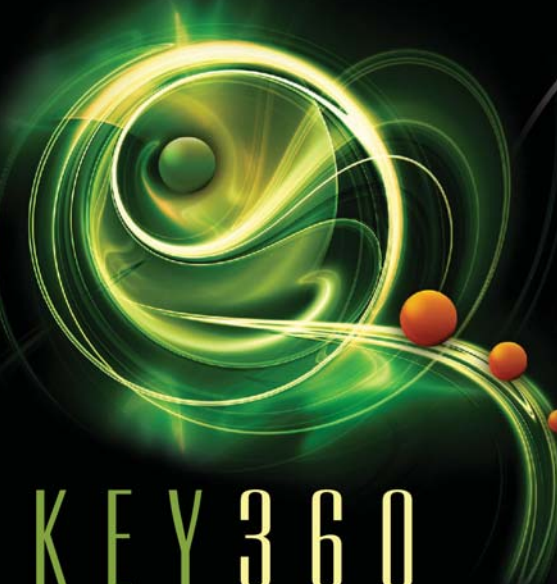
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